



Rep. Roger Bush

SESSION REVIEW 2000



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1-800-562-6000

Legislative information on the Internet:

www.leg.wa.gov

State government on the Internet:

www.access.wa.gov

Dear Friends:

Initiative 695 has been the major theme of the Legislature's 2000 session. The voter-approved initiative, which cut the car license tax to \$30 and required voter approval of tax increases, forced state government to change the way it does business.

Even though a King County judge overturned I-695 recently, I still believe we should abide by the people's will. More than 74 percent of voters in the 2nd District voted for I-695. The Legislature passed a law re-instating \$30 car tabs, so no matter what the courts rule your car tab fee won't be raised.

My main priorities in responding to I-695 are protecting essential services and continuing to fund road improvements. As I write this letter, the House has passed a budget plan that achieves those goals while continuing funding for education and other key areas. The Senate has yet to take action on our proposal. I hope we can come to a resolution soon.

Other issues of interest this session include consumer privacy and health care. You'll find more information inside.

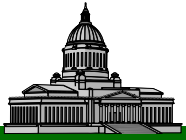
Please feel free to contact my Olympia office if you have any questions or comments. I enjoy hearing from you. It is an honor to serve you in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Roger Bush".

Roger Bush
State Representative
2nd District

2nd District



RESPONDING TO I-695

How did the Legislature do?

After Initiative 695 passed, my top priorities were protecting public safety, public health and transportation services, controlling taxes and making government work. As you know, I-695 cut the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) to \$30. Most cities and counties relied on the MVET for police and fire departments, immunizations and other health and safety services. So we needed to find replacement dollars for those services, and also respond to the voters' desire for a more efficient government.

Republicans started the ball rolling this session with a budget plan that gave long-term funding to essential services and transportation projects. We also offered property tax relief and reduced overall government spending. Since the House is tied between Republicans and Democrats, we had to compromise on a final budget. It's not quite as good as our original plan, but it does respond to the challenges of I-695.

Note: As this newsletter went to print the House and Senate had not yet reached agreement on a budget. Call my office for more details.



Here's a brief summary of the House budget:

Public safety, health funding

The House budget returns long-term funding to essential public safety services such as police, fire and the courts. It also restores 90 percent of public health districts' funding for immunizations, water and food inspections, and other services.

Transportation

I've worked to secure funding for key local road improvements such as Meridian (Highway 161) in Graham, Highway 162 in the Orting Valley and Highway 507 in Roy/McKenna. In response to citizen concerns, I'm also working to change and improve a controversial "corridor" plan on Pacific Avenue that thousands of local residents oppose. And I pushed opening HOV lanes to all drivers in non-rush hours, something the governor now supports.

Education

The House budget continues to support schools. Nearly half the state budget goes to K-12 education — we'd also like to send all Lottery revenues to public schools. The House budget adds money for K-12 school construction to match approved local bonds and for local colleges such as Pierce College. I also supported a school safety law requiring courts to notify schools of student weapons violations.

Taxes & spending

Thanks to I-695, car owners are saving \$1.2 billion — and that's just through 2001. The House budget cuts an additional \$67 million in state spending. We're also offering a property tax cut to seniors who make less than \$30,000 per year. I'm already working to pass widespread property tax relief for all home and business owners next year.

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OTHER ISSUES

Consumer privacy

If you're worried about the privacy of your personal information, you're not alone. As technology advances, many people are concerned that their personal data is easier to transmit and access.

For the past year I've worked with the attorney general on a comprehensive privacy bill that would let consumers tell companies and government agencies **not to sell or share private information**. This bill didn't pass. But I will continue to pursue such legislation in the future.



Rep. Bush consults with House Co-Speaker Clyde Ballard and a colleague.

This year I supported a number of other bills to protect your privacy. Some of them passed, and some didn't. Here are a few examples:

I sponsored a measure to make sure only the last five digits of **credit card numbers** show up on sales receipts. That way, if you lose or drop your receipt criminals cannot steal your credit card number and make illegal purchases. This bill passed and has been signed into law.

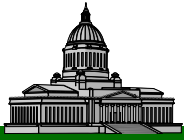
Telemarketing calls are a huge annoyance for just about everybody. This year I supported a bill to let consumers sign onto a "no sales call" list — any telemarketer who called a person on the list would be subject to penalties under the Consumer Protection Act. This bill didn't pass, but I will work to bring it back next year.

Health insurance

This year the Legislature finally passed insurance reforms. Pierce County is one of 32 counties in the state where people can no longer buy **individual insurance plans**. In a few months you will see insurance carriers coming back into the state and offering individual health coverage.



The **patients' bill of rights** will give doctors and patients — instead of accountants — more control over important medical decisions. I was glad to help pass it into law.



Rep. Roger Bush

2nd District

How to contact government officials, agencies

2nd District delegation

Rep. Roger Bush: (360) 786-7824
Rep. Tom Campbell: (360) 786-7912
Sen. Marilyn Rasmussen: (360) 786-7602

U.S. Congress

Sen. Slade Gorton: (425) 451-0103
Sen. Patty Murray: (206) 553-5545
Rep. Jennifer Dunn: (206) 275-3438
Rep. Adam Smith: (253) 926-6683
Rep. Norm Dicks: (253) 593-6536

State government

Gov. Gary Locke: (360) 902-4111

Attorney General

(Consumer Protection): 1-800-551-4636
Business Assistance Hotline: 1-800-237-1233
Consumer Check on Contractors: .. 1-800-647-0982
Medicaid Information: 1-800-562-3022
Nursing Home Information: 1-800-562-6028
Park Information: 1-800-233-0321
Social Security: 1-800-772-1213
Veterans Affairs: 1-800-562-2308
Voter Information: 1-800-448-4881



Military, veterans issues

The Legislature addressed several issues dealing with military personnel and veterans. We increased the preferences available to veterans who take civil service exams for state and local government employment. We authorized military personnel who aren't Washington residents to pay the lower in-state tuition rates at colleges and universities. We also passed several resolutions honoring veterans of World War II and the Korean War, as well as a remembrance of Pearl Harbor.

Currently the Legislature only has a Senate Select Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs. I serve on that committee as a House member, but I was glad to co-sponsor a bill to make the committee encompass both the House and Senate. This bill passed and was signed by the governor.



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